would also lead to an improvement in the order book position of BHEL.

Pending thermal power stations

317. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that five new thermal power projects of Madhya Pradesh in Sidhi, Sarguja, Raigarh, Bilaspur and Chhindwara districts are pending with the Union Government for clearance; and

(b) if so, by when these projects are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) and (b) Proposals have been received for setting up thermal power projects in Sidhi, Sarguja, Raigarh, Bilaspur and Chhindwara districts in Madhya Pradesh. The proposal to instal a thermal power project in Sarguja district (Bishrampur) has not been found feasible. The other proposals are also not included in the Seventh Plan. Such proposals can be considered for investment decision only after their techno-economic viability has been established and all necessary inputs and clearances, including the funds required, have been tied up.

Talcher Super Thermal Power Project

318. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the super thermal power project proposed to be set up at Talcher in Orissa has since been cleared by Government;

(b) if so, what would be the cost and other details of the project;

(c) by when this project is likely to be commissioned; and

(d) what are the details regarding other projects which are pending for clearance by the Central Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) and (b) The Central Electricity Authority has techno-economically cleared the proposal to set up the Talcher super thermal power project (2x500 MW) in Orissa at an estimated cost of about Rs. 1291 crores including the associated transmission system. An investment decision in regard to the project can be taken only after all necessary inputs have been tied up.

(c) A 500 MW Unit is normally commissioned within five years from the placement of orders for the main plant and equipment.

(d) Pending an investment decision, the Planning Commission has accorded "in principle" clearance to the Ib Valley Thermal Power Project of 840 MW. The power portion of the Manibhadra multi-purpose project can be techno-economically appraised by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) after the project has been cleared by the Technical Advisory Committee of the Planning Commission. Proposals in regard to the Mandira Dam hydel project and Bargarh hydel scheme were received in the CEA in 1986 and are under examination in the CEA and the Central Water Commission.

Uniform electricity rates

319. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether different rates of electricity are being charged at present in various States;

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by Government to introduce uniform rates of electricity in